WESTERNERS
LOS ANGELES CORRAL
The Roundup Brand
J. GOODMAN

JUNE 1973 LOS ANGELES CORRAL NUMBER 110

SAN MARINO RANCHO

By EDWIN H. CARPENTER

Don Bernardo Yorba, great landowner in Mexican days in what is now Orange County, did not know it, but he planted the seed of San Marino Ranch when he named his granddaughter María de Jesús Wilson as a residuary legatee in his will. She was a child of Don Bernardo's daughter Ramona and Don Benito Wilson, born in 1845. Benjamin D. Wilson – called Don Benito by the Spanish-speaking – born in Tennessee in 1811, was one of the Anglos who came to California in the Mexican period, married into a local family, and became a ranchero. From 1833 to 1841 he was a merchant in Santa Fé; in the latter year he came to Alta California with the Workman-Rowland party. He purchased Rancho Jurúpa, where Riverside now is, and lived there with his bride. Unfortunately she died after only a short life together, and soon thereafter the widower moved into Los Angeles, where he turned from cattle to grape-growing and business ventures.

In 1854 Wilson began buying pieces of property in the San Gabriel Valley, small Mexican grants, portions of others, bits of public land, and so on. These he put to-

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The Branding Iron

THE WESTERNERS
LOS ANGELES CORRAL

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THE BRANDING IRON solicits articles of 1500 words or less, dealing with every phase of the Old West. Contributions from members and friends welcomed.

Corral Chips

Our stack of corral chips for this issue of the *Branding Iron* has mighty proportions as a veritable avalanche of news about our members crosses the cluttered desk of your Assistant Roundup Foreman.

Journeying to Denver as a specially invited guest, *Bill Kimes* previews an educational television series dealing with three of America's noted conservationists, Henry David Thoreau, Theodore Roosevelt, and John Muir. Bill is, of course, a noted collector and authority on Muir.

Don Meadows is honored at a banquet at Knott's Berry Farm where he is awarded a silver medal and named "Citizen of the Year" by the Orange County Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Don also pens a charming little booklet – much in the style of those our late and fondly remembered Will Robinson produced for the Title Insurance and Trust Company – titled "A Friendly Community Near the Foothills," a history of the town of El Modena published by, and probably still available gratis from, the First National Bank of Orange County in the city of Orange.

An affectionate memoir of the late Norman Clyde, well-known mountaineer and resident of Owens Valley, is written by *Walt Wheelock* for the Southern Sierran, a publication of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club.

The 7,000 item Western Americana library of C.M *Bob Warden* of Great Falls, Montana, is up for sale. The Charles M. Russell collection is offered for sale by *Dick Mohr* and is fully catalogued. The items include art, ephemera, films, the family archives and over 1,000 periodicals featuring Russell art.

Two thieves who attempt to sell a cache of stolen Navajo rugs to a Pasadena antique dealer are unfortunate when Sgt. *Ernie Hovard* is assigned to the case. Acting on a tip, Ernie apprehends them after they exhibit supreme ignorance of their merchandise by asking only $500, for example, for a rare chief's blanket easily worth $4,000. Yes, you guessed it, our corral member-policeman has studied and collected Navajo rugs for many years.

Robert Cowan writes "A Portrait of William A. Clark, Jr." for the Spring issue of Biblio-Cal Notes, a publication of the Southern California Local History Council. And C.M. *David Rocks* compiles a useful bibliography on *Orange County History, 1869-1971.*

Westernlore Press sells the soft cover publication rights on *Paul Bailey's Polygamy Was Better Than Monotony* to Ballantine Books, Inc., of New York. This delightful autobiography, which your Asst. Roundup Foreman had the pleasure of reviewing recently in the *BI*, is must reading for all Westerners.

The University of the Pacific is the fortunate recipient of C.M. *Al Shumate's* extensive collection of books, pamphlets, photographs, and other materials on the history of California – a splendid gift by any yardstick and one which will vastly enrich the archives of that institution.

The Old Army Press releases two new books by C.M. *John M. Carroll: Harold Von Schmidt: The Complete Illustrator,* and *Nick Eggenhofer: The Pulp Years.* Custer buffs should also be on the lookout later this year for another of John's books, *Custer in Periodicals: A Bibliographic Checklist.*

Our own loyal corral member, *Clifford M. Drury,* livens up the publications of other outfits from time to time. Not long ago the Stockton Corral's *Far Westerner* published his "Christian Beginnings in California, and Indian Mission Beginnings in Old Oregon," while one entire issue of the Spokane Corral's *Pacific Northwesterner* was devoted to a biographical sketch of Clifford entitled "Reminiscences of a Historian."

C.M. *"Bob" Robertson* gets a Stetson hat specially made to his order because of this famous company's appreciation for his "The Stetson Story" in the Spring 1973, issue of *Nevada Highways and Parks* magazine. Almost ready for the publishers is Bob's *Cows, Cow Horses, and Cowmen: A Grassland Glossary.*

On the distaff side, C.M. *Harriet Weaver* has a new book out called *Frosty: A Raccoon to Remember,* a work in which our own *Don Meadows* appears. Seems that both Don and Harriet served together with the California State Parks in Big Basin Redwoods, part of the setting for *Frosty.*

When he is not busy setting up type for one of his several hand presses, C.M. Dr. *Charles Heiskell* is sampling various California vintages as a member of the wine committee for the Zamorano Club. Need any volunteers, Charles?

And speaking of the Zamorano Club, new officers include *John Kemble,* president, and C.M. *Charles Clarke,* elected to the Board of Governors.

The Chicago Corral taps C.M. *Roger Henn* for their new Deputy Sheriff and publishes his paper on the "Lies, Lore, and Legend of the Silvery San Juan."

C.M. *Edward Hauck* designs a nautical exhibit for the Jefferson County Historical Museum in Port Townsend, Washington, featuring the sailing ship photographs of Capt. H. H. Morrison, turn-of-the-century tugboat captain, pilot, and pioneer marine photographer.

When he's not behind the klieg lights on television these days, *Ray Billington* is obviously ensconced at his typewriter, for 1973 will witness no less than four publications by this erudite and respected scholar: *Frederick Jackson Turner: Historian, Scholar, Teacher,* from Oxford University Press; *People of the Plains and Mountains,* a collection of essays edited by Ray, dedicated to Everett Dick, and published by the

(*Continued on Page Twelve*)

Paul Bailey Elected Director — Western Writers of America . . .

Our own Paul Bailey, author, bon vivant, and man about Eagle Rock, has been elected a director by the membership. The WWA is an association of writers of Western history and fiction. Los Angeles Corral members who are WWA members include Ray Allen Billington, Donald Duke, and our grizzled Sheriff Doyce Nunis. Bailey will be installed this July at the Association's yearly gathering at Olympia, Washington.

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gether into a ranch of some 1,200 acres which he called Lake Vineyard, most of which lay within the present city limits of San Marino. As the name shows, his ranch was a vineyard, though he also had extensive orange groves, and there were other fruits which had been planted by the Mission fathers and earlier owners. Wilson was a pioneer and leader in the commercial development of both grapes and citrus fruits. In those days, almost all grapes had to be shipped in liquid form, so he had wineries, and had to concern himself with improving transportation from southern California to world markets. (It was his sending a work crew to blaze a trail up the nearby mountain in search of lumber for casks, barrels, and crates that caused his name to be given to it.)

Wilson's former father-in-law, Yorba, died in 1858, and the legacy to his daughter was paid to him, since she was a child. When she grew up and married, it was appropriate to pay the amount over to her. In 1867 she married J. DeBarth Shorb, a Marylander, born in 1841. He had come to California in connection with the oil industry which started here in the 1860s but failed to develop. Wilson was involved in this activity, and no doubt invited Shorb to Lake Vineyard as a guest.

In 1869, in lieu of giving her her grandfather's legacy (which, perhaps, he could not raise in cash), Benito Wilson deeded his eldest daughter – he had meantime had two more by a second marriage – about half of Lake Vineyard. When she and her husband received this portion, some 600 acres, they named it San Marino Ranch. The name was taken from that of Shorb's old family plantation in Maryland; that, in turn, had been named after the Republic of San Marino, though explanations differ as to why.

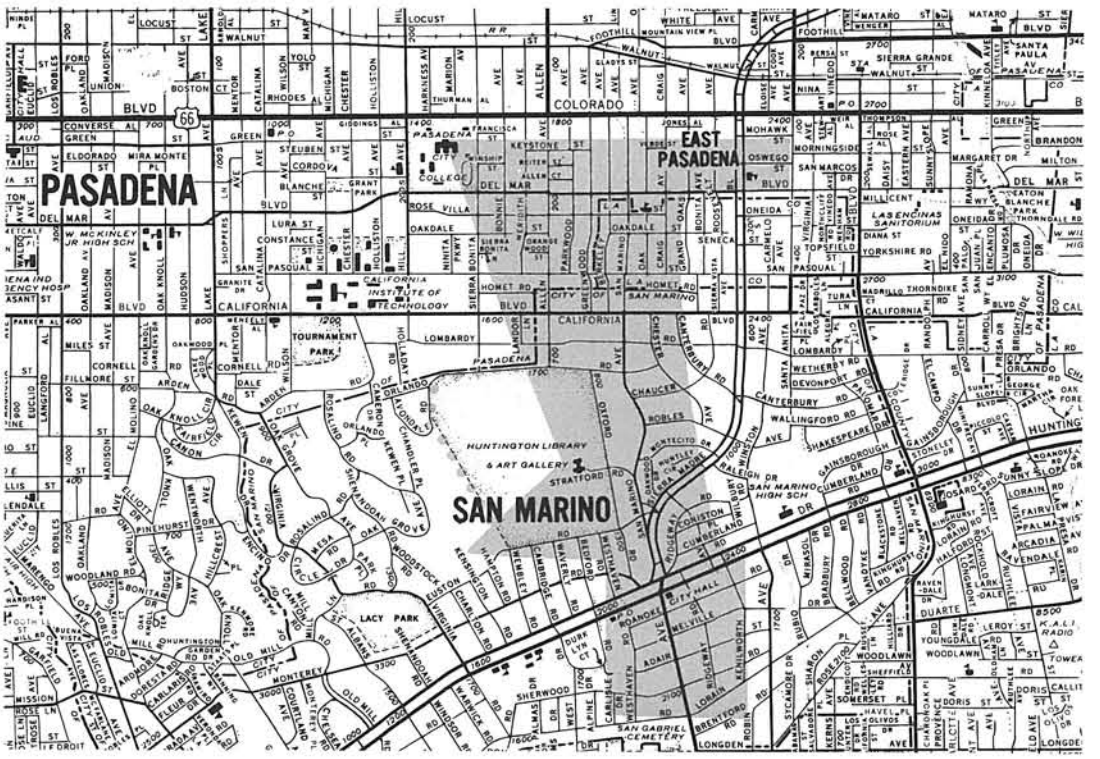
The Shorbs used the property as had Wilson – to produce grape products and oranges. In the course of time Shorb became much more active and productive in viticulture than was his father-in-law. He had several wineries, and many acres of vineyards elsewhere than on the ranch, such as in the west end of Alhambra. He operated the San Gabriel Wine Company, which by the early nineties had an extremely large output. Having the same need as Wilson for transportation, Shorb too was active in promoting improved rail connections, and had a hand in the coming of the Santa Fe through Pasadena.*

Partly from lack of hotels and partly because it seems to have been their nature, the Shorbs were extremely hospitable. About ten years after their marriage they built on San Marino Ranch a large two-story wooden house; in the next decade, as the family increased to about a dozen, this was given a third story and other added rooms and a "Charles Addamsy" turret. This house was a landmark and center of hospitality for many years. It stood exactly where the later Huntington residence, now the art gallery of the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, stands. (Incidentally, when Mr. Huntington came to tear down the old house he did not just have it bulldozed, but caused it to be taken apart carefully and the plumbing, wiring, wood, and so on used in the construction of cottages for workmen on the ranch. The paneling from the principal rooms is still to be seen in one of the outbuildings of the Library.)

During the last quarter of the century the Shorbs lived in style on San Marino Ranch, well up in social, horticultural, and other circles. Among their guests was Helen Hunt Jackson, and it is a family story that she took the name of the heroine of her famous novel from the Shorbs' daughter Ramona who was, of course, named for her grandmother. Certainly this family is the source of the name of the Ramona Convent, for this was a benefaction of J. DeBarth Shorb.

In the early 1890s phylloxera, a virus-carrying insect, struck the vineyards of the Los Angeles area and caused very extensive damage. Shorb's vineyards were wiped out. This and the Panic of 1893, perhaps combined with some overextension, also wiped out Shorb, who was a ruined man when he died in 1896. San Marino Ranch was lost on a mortgage to the Farmers and

*Spurs and a branch line from the Southern Pacific ran into the vineyards and groves of the Alhambra-San Marino area, especially to the main winery of the San Gabriel Wine Co. In the '80s and '90s the point where the Southern Pacific Alhambra station is now was known as Shorb Junction, the station for Alhambra being farther east. Because of later industrial activity, several of these spurs are still in use.



Boundaries of Shorb's home ranch projected from an 1876 map onto a modern one. The same result was obtained by two cartographers working independently, but the placing does not quite agree with other sources. Alignment was made by checking Southern Pacific railway line and the San Gabriel Mission location, none of which have changed over the years. Perhaps the boundaries of the ranch altered over the years. Certainly the present library property shown within the dotted line was part of the former Shorb ranch property as acquired by Henry Huntington in 1902. — MAP REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF THE COPYRIGHT OWNER — AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Merchants Bank, which allowed the family to live there until a purchaser was found.

An Eastern railroad man named Henry Huntington came to California in 1892 to be vice-president of the Southern Pacific. In his travels within the state he was a guest of the Shorbs and of her half-sister, Mrs. George S. Patton, who occupied the other half of Lake Vineyard, Wilson having died in 1878. He was very much taken with the property and the location. When he transferred his activities to southern California at the turn of the century, he was pleased to find that San Marino Ranch was on the market, and he bought it from the bank in 1902. Mrs. Shorb and some of the children moved to San Francisco.

This is not the story of Henry Huntington's collecting activities or of the institution which he left to the public, but a word might be said about the ranch under his ownership. It was expected to be an income-producing property. The vines were gone, but the ranch continued to produce citrus fruits, and Mr. Huntington had his own packing plants and brand names. He introduced a new cash crop, the avocado, and was an early figure in the commercial development of this product. Other things too were sold, such as eggs. For several years Mr. Huntington did not live on the property, but eventually he started a mansion, which was finished in 1913, in time for him to move in following his second marriage. Gradually, productive area was sacrificed to landscaping, and in addition Mr. Huntington sold some of the property. After his death a small portion was subdivided, as allowed in his will and deed of gift; since that time the ranch as occupied by the present institution has been 207 acres. The Huntington Library keeps up an orange grove by replacing aging trees with new stock; there are many huge avocados left; and especially there are, carefully cared for, many fine oaks, which were there before any of these people held title to the land.

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THE MONTHLY ROUNDUP

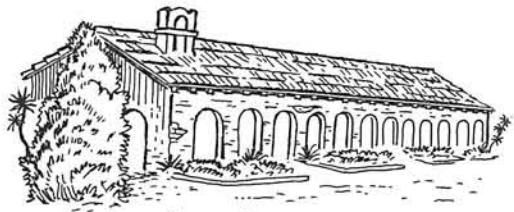
APRIL

After a bit of arm wrestling between our long time member Webster A. Jones, and the athletic John H. Urabec, Deputy Sheriff, Jones was enticed to present "The Oregon Country – The First Hundred Years Were the Best." Web Jones is a fourth generation Oregonian and has been a collector of Oregon History nearly all his life. In fact he has one of the finest collections of Oregoniana in these parts. His prime interest has been in the field of bibliography of early books on his home state. His presentation before the Corral interpreted the deveopment and the events leading up to the turning points in the history of Oregon in the first century.

Scene at the May Corral Meeting under the watchful eye of Iron Eyes Cody in the background. (Left to Right) Former Sheriff John H. Kemble who introduced the speaker; former Sheriff Earl Adams, the speaker for the evening; Sheriff Doyce Nunis and Deputy Sheriff John H. Urabec. — IRON EYES CODY PHOTOGRAPH

MAY

With the Corral acting as a jury, former Sheriff Earl Adams presented his case before his peers. His subject was "The Dubious Will and Unresolved Note in the Case of Colonel J. B. Lankershim." This case, involving a fraudulent will of a prominent early Angelino, was never really solved in court. Adams tells all the background of how associates, doctors, and beautiful California maidens attempted to worm in on the Lankershim fortune.



JUNE

The San Fernando Mission, established in 1797, was the scene of the annual "Fandango" and western barbecue.

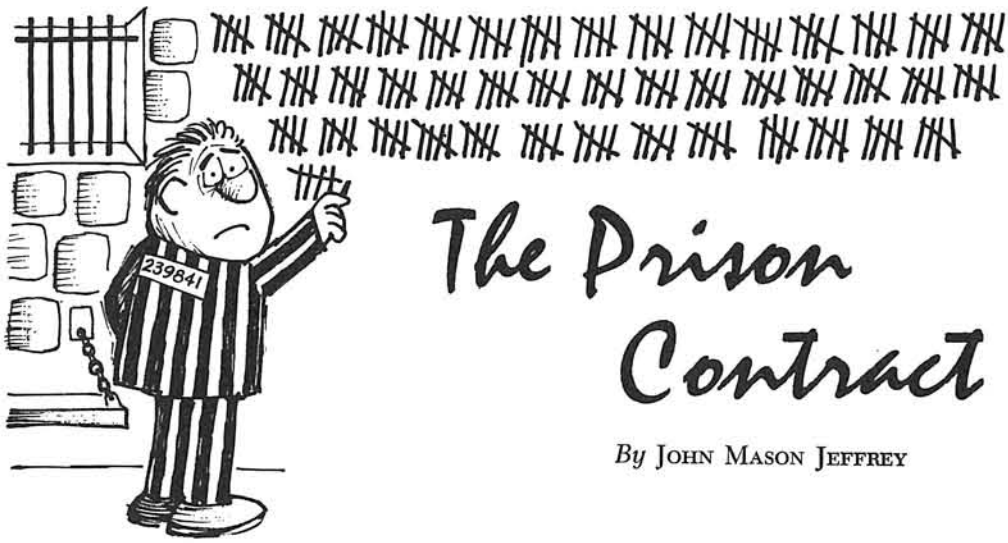
The Mission, the Franciscan's seventeenth in order of time, was established by Fathers Fermin Lasuen and Francisco Dumetz on a site selected primarily for its natural advantages along "The King's Highway." Today a crumbling pile of adobe, due to the Sylmar earthquake of two years ago, the Mission still put forth hospitality and friendship. A good time was had by all.

Corresponding Members Welcomed by Corral

The Los Angeles Corral of The Westerners extending the welcome mat to the following new Corresponding Members.

They are: Howard T. Chuman, West Covina; Murrell Ebright, Santa Barbara; Frederick B. Gallender, Pasadena; and Paul A. Lord of Reseda.

ARIZONA TERRITORIAL PRISON



The Prison Contract

By JOHN MASON JEFFREY

When gold Democrat Benjamin J. Franklin took office as governor of the Territory of Arizona on April 18, 1896, he was unaware of the sackful of snakes he had inherited from his Cleveland Democrat predecessor, L. C. Hughes, in the package called "The Prison Contract" involving the Arizona Territorial Prison.

At that time the colorful Territorial Prison at Yuma had attained the maturity of almost twenty years. The Yellow Press, T.V., and extravagant tales of the Old Pen (as it was familiarly called) had not yet popularized the Hell Hole concept that has since been fostered in fiction. While it was hot, dirty, smelly, and (by standards other than its own frontier) shockingly primitive in its physical plant and facilities, its entire history was one of rather enlightened and uneventful administration.

Essentially, the prison was run by decent, Godfearing men on a tight financial basis so economical as to be austere. For example, from 1893 to 1896 the daily per capita cost of maintaining a prisoner in the Old Pen dropped from $.865 to $.476, less than half a dollar per day, per convict!

Throughout the thirty-four years operation of the prison the emphasis was on economy and involved a continual, ineffectual struggle to make the institution self supporting. Work projects over the years included clothing and shoe manufacture, farming, wood cutting, adobe making, blue dirt sales, and of course prison building construction.

Hughes had not been universally popular as governor, but one at this late date would hardly have expected this particular contract as one of his ideas. He was an active crusader for reforms, and was violently opposed to liquor and any liquor traffic. When finally removed from office by his political enemies, ex-Governor Hughes was not forgotten.

Four days after taking office, Governor Franklin found that his predecessor had sought to make money on prison labor by leasing prisoners to a private company, optimistically named the "State of Arizona Improvement Company."

Possibly Governor Hughes and his Board of Control may have hoped by the Prison Contract for still further savings to report to the legislature and the people of the Territory, although it would seem that simple arithmetic would hardly tend to support this. Some of the facts regarding the ill-fated contract quickly came to light.

The Board of Control had come into being the year before, replacing the Board of Prison Commissioners and taking over the Prison, the Insane Asylum, etc. One of its first acts was the negotiation with the State

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LOUIS C. HUGHES

Hughes, Arizona Territory's eleventh governor, persistently opposed licensed gambling and the liquor traffic, and to reduce the public debt placed all territorial institutions (except schools) under the direction of a single board. He reported that three fourths of the 180 prisoners incarcerated in the prison at Yuma were there as a result of intemperance. He was removed from office March 30, 1896.

of Arizona Improvement Company which culminated in a contract dated December 2, 1895.

For reasons best known to the Board, the negotiations and contract were accomplished not only without fanfare but in secrecy. Neither the records of the Board revealed this remarkable transaction, nor did its formal report covering the period involved.

As the Governor read the Contract his annoyance and incredulity mounted. He refused to sanction the agreement, and at once called in the Attorney General, the Honorable J. F. Wilson. With reinforced disapproval these gentlemen went over the secret terms.

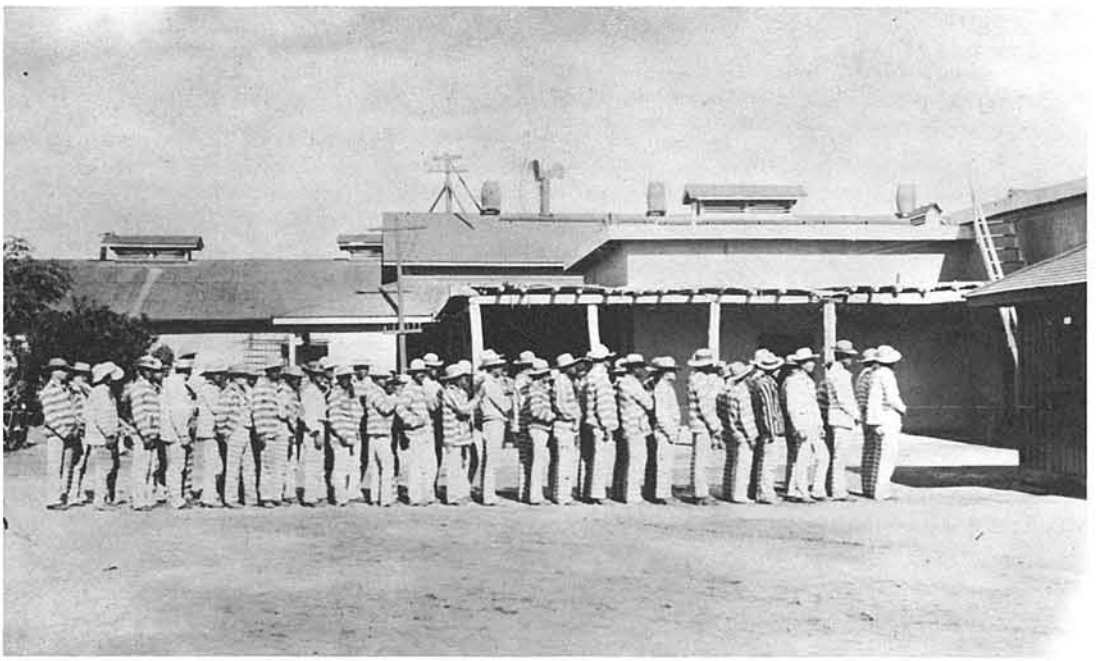
Stripped of its "whereases" an incredibly one-sided deal emerged. The Territory, in effect, agreed to supply for a period of ten years its able bodied prisoners anywhere in Yuma County designated by the company, "properly guarded, clothed, fed, and ready to commence work" for the hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., to enforce the performance by the convicts of "a good days labor, while at work, to the satisfaction" of the company, and to maintain and guard the prisoners at places of work distant from the prison, in work parties of no less than five.

This was not all. The Territory leased to the Company 2,115 acres of Territory land, to start rent free for ten years after the canals were filled with water, and then at a rent to be determined, or, at the Company's option, one-half of the "net products of the land."

What was the consideration to the Territory? The Company agreed to pay 70 cents per day per convict – but not necessarily in cash. The Company could, if it so elected, issue its perpetual water right deed for eighty acres of water in its canal, (if any), when the canal was completed, subject to conditions, limitations, and terms to be imposed by the Company as it saw fit, per $1,600.00 of labor (roughly equivalent to 2,286 man-days, or six man-years). In case the water rights turned out to be valuable, the Company could choose to pay cash for the labor. If the Territory wished to dispose of its water rights, the Company

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Descendent of the Philadelphia printer, he succeeded Hughes as twelfth governor of Arizona Territory. Franklin supported the Jeffersonian theory that the government is best which governs least. He was removed from office when McKinley defeated William Jennings Bryan for the Presidency.



Territorial prisoners line up for chow. Notice the conglomeration of prison uniforms. This typical scene is in the main yard. — ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

had the right to buy them at the same price the Territory could sell them to a third party.

The agreement carried a forfeiture clause, and provided piously,

> IT IS FURTHER AGREED, CONVENANTED AND DECLARED that these presents are made . . . for the best interest of the Territory of Arizona, and for the purpose of furnishing employment for the inmates of the said Territorial Prison—the labor of said inmates being not required upon any buildings or properties of any institution of said Territory.

The document was signed by Louis C. Hughes, Governor, C. P. Leitch, Auditor, and M. H. McCord, all members of the Territorial Board of Control, and The State of Arizona Improvement Company by C. D. Baker, President. The signatures were notarized by Wade H. Halings, Notary Public in the County of Maricopa.

Franklin lost no time in securing an extension to June 10, 1896, stipulating that the delay be without prejudice to either party.

The Attorney General wrote indignantly,

> This contract binds the Territory altogether, and the Company . . . scarcely anywhere.
>
> . . . it imposes no obligation whatever on the Company to defray any of the expenses of, or to make any preparation for the safe keeping of prisoners when outside of Prison walls.
>
> It binds her to properly guard them, feed them, and clothe them and to have them on hand at the time and within the hours to be named by the Company, and anywhere they may name.
>
> The Territory must transport it, guard it, feed it, and clothe it; and the Company controls it, directs it, and takes to itself the benefit of the labor yielded, without a dollar's consideration advocated for it. The only consideration for all this lies in promise; and that promise is, as we glean from the instrument itself, something which the Company has not, and, from the Contract itself, something it will never have except at Territorial expense.

Attorney General J. F. Wilson pointed out any water rights the Company might acquire (to pay the Territory with) would be at the risk and expense of the Territory, while speculating on increased values, in which case the rights could be retained.

He concluded:

> . . . this contract . . . is so one sided and highly inequitable that a court of conscience could never enforce it.

Governor Franklin, in forwarding the details of the Prison Contract to the Secretary of the Interior, ended his letter of transmittal:

> The people of the territory, almost without a dissenting voice, are violently opposed

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to its execution . . .

It so seriously effects the interests of this territory, I consider it proper for we to submit everything in relation thereto to the Department, and shall keep you advised in regard to all further proceedings concerning it, with the hope that my action in the premises may be approved by you . . .

On May 25, 1896, the Company demanded ten able bodied convicts. Pursuant to the stand taken by the Governor and the Attorney General, M. J. Nugent, ninth Superintendent of the Arizona Territorial Prison, served notice the following day on the Company whereby he "peremptorily declined."

Claiming no adequate remedy at law, the Company as promptly brought mandamus proceedings against the Prison Superintendent.

Superintendent Nugent, represented by the Attorney General and backed by the Governor, demurred on the grounds that the pleadings failed to state "facts sufficient to authorize the writ . . . to issue," that the Arizona Improvement Company sought "to compel the performance of an Act on (his) part . . . as Superintendent . . . which the law does not specially enjoin upon him as a duty resulting from his office," that he was not a party to the contract, and that the petition sought "to compel the performance of a void contract, authorized only by a pretended law, which is void."

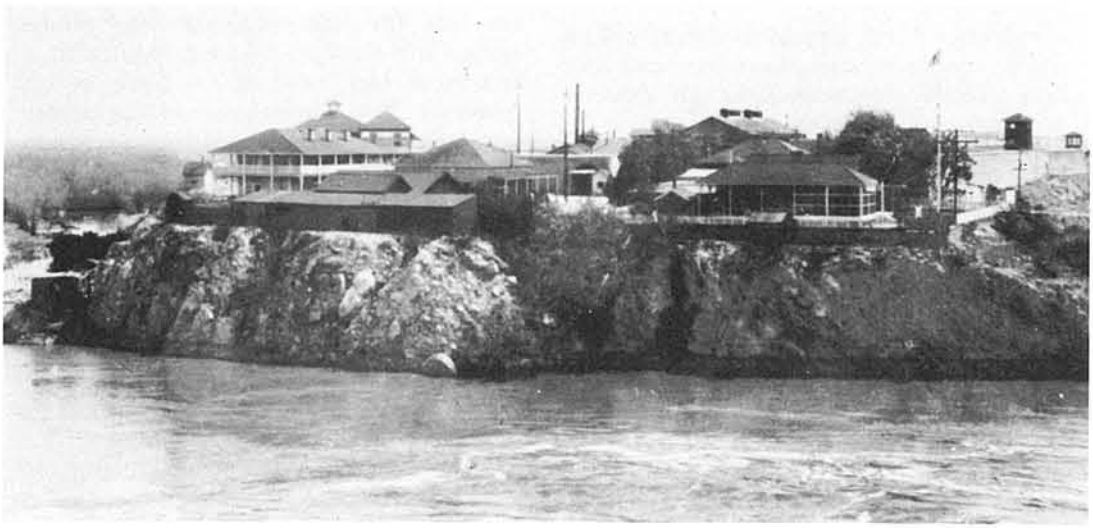
Further answering, he denied the power of the Board of Control to make such a contract, alleged several technical defenses, and developed in detail various countercharges of unfairness, ambiguity, expense, and illegality.

The case was argued and submitted to the Court in the Yuma County Court House on June 15, 1896, and, contrary to the previously expressed opinion of the Attorney General to the Governor that "a court of conscience could never enforce" the agreement, the decision rendered on November 8th was for the Company and against the Territory. Still, the 70 cents per day convict labor was not to be. The case was appealed and taken to Phoenix.

In the end the Territory triumphed. The decision was reversed by the Territorial Supreme Court, the Prison Contract was declared null and void, and Yuma Prison continued its hot, usually dull existence for another dozen years until removed to Florence in 1909.

So ended a short chapter in the experience of the Territory of Arizona and its first public institution.

Southwest corner of the Arizona Territorial Prison Yard, showing Madison Street railroad bridge in the middle background. A guard station stands to the left of a section of adobe wall under repair. The pole supports an electric yard light. Cells were dug into the caliche hill (left foreground) facing the granite and iron cellblock at the extreme right. — YUMA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



This photograph, identified as having been taken in 1906 from Fort Yuma across the Colorado River, reveals how crowded the tiny mesa had become by that date. The Sally Port can be seen in the center of the picture, which once was the only means of access to the walled compound. — YUMA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

How much of the Governor's indignation was political and how much was righteous is not clear. Unfair the Prison Contract certainly was, on the face of it, so seemingly one-sided that one wonders if some powerfully persuasive "pro" factors may not have been in the passage of time overlooked or misvalued. The profit to the Territory, under the most sanguinary and economical conditions, could not have amounted to more than 20 cents per day per prisoner. Actual working conditions would, of necessity, have increased the cost of maintaining a prisoner, while the extra cost of guarding prisoners and maintaining them away from the Prison would no doubt have had the project operating at an overall loss for the Prison and the Territory.

Curiously, the morality of the proposition of leasing out convict labor apparently was not one of the issues.

The Old Pen, always administered on a Spartan, barebones budget, with overcrowding a burgeoning problem, grimly, if matter-of-factly continued to discharge it mission of withholding its inmates from society.

LEHMAN NAMED BRAND BOOK EDITOR

Sheriff Doyce Nunis announces that Tony Lehman has been appointed by the Trail Bosses to serve as editor for our corral's Brand Book 15, with publication scheduled to coincide with the bicentennial year of 1976.

Pursuing a format that has been followed only once before, Tony has indicated his desire to create a unified book around one central theme, in this case the history of Southern California.

Manuscripts which deal with the Southern California scene, in any of its many aspects, are now being solicited from members. Everyone with an interest in this field who would like to be represented in the Brand Book is urged to prepare and then to send in their material to Tony Lehman, 4524 Rhodelia Avenue, Claremont, California, 91711.

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Corral Chips . . .

Greenwood Press; a revised edition of *Westward Expansion* from Macmillan; and Nicolaus Mohr's *Excursion Through America,* edited for the Lakeside Classics.

Making his twentieth water transit of the Grand Canyon, C. M. *Dock Marston* continues the search for John Wesley Powell's lost journal covering an 1869 cruise on the Colorado.

When Cardinal-designate Timothy Manning journeys to Rome for the bestowal of the "red hat" on the Archbishop of Los Angeles, he is accompanied by C. M. Rev. *Francis J. Weber,* Archivist for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Once back in the city, Father Weber issues a handsome 42 page booklet titled "An Historical Perspective," which traces the background on the office and title of "Cardinal," with special emphasis on Southern California.

Here on the home front, the Los Angeles City Council gives one of those colorful and impressive citations to *Dudley Gordon* for adding to our cultural heritage through his work on *Charles Fletcher Lummis: Crusader in Corduroy.*

Continuing his own deep involvement in local history, *Wade Kittell* assumes the job of editing "Los Fierros," the quarterly of the Historical Society of Long Beach. Wade is also the newly elected chairman of the Docents of Rancho Los Cerritos.

Westerners are on hand in goodly numbers at the opening reception for the Seventh Annual Roundup of Cowboy Art held at Santa Ana's Saddleback Inn. Among the champagne punch quaffing crowd admiring a fine assemblage of paintings are *Allen Willett, Earl Adams, Tony Lehman,* Associate Members *Ted Littlefield* and *Andy Dagosta,* along with C.M. *Phil Kovinick.*

Associate Member *Henry Welcome* and his wife Betty are featured in the April issue of "The California Federal Story," put out by the savings and loan company of the same name. The article, "Meet the Welcomes of Eagle Rock," is an intriguing portrait of this husband and wife team who have done so much to preserve and record the history of their home town. Hank, incidentally, is co-editor of the recently published *Historical Narrative of Pio Pico,* a translation from a manuscript in the Bancroft Library and a significant addition to the shelves of prime Californiana.

On the chicken and banquet beef route we note the following articulate Westerners: *Carl Dentzel* opening an exhibit of folk art at the Pasadena Art Museum with a talk on "The Acculturation of the Indian;" *Hugh Tolford* appearing before the Pacific Coast Chapter of the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society and enlightening them in regard to the railroads, mines, and scenic attractions of Death Valley; C.M. *Ed Carpenter* drawing on the picture archives of the Huntington Library for a slide presentation on "California for Pleasure" to the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society and the Symposium sponsored by the Associated Historical Societies of Los Angeles County; *Bill Kimes* spreading his knowledge among such diverse groups as the Sacramento Book Club, the Sierra Club History Workshop, and the Republican Women of Mariposa County; C.M. *Bob Gunderson,* under the auspices of the "distinguished visitors program" of the University Center in Virginia, lecturing during one (yes, one) action-packed week at the University of Virginia, Madison College, St. Paul's College, and Washington and Lee University; and, finally, Dr. *Al Shumate* is the luncheon speaker at a mini-conference sponsored by Region 9 of the Conference of California Historical Societies at Columbia College.

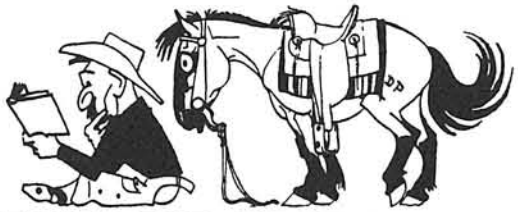
Ray Billington, John Kemble, and Sheriff *Doyce Nunis* attend the Organization of American Historians' annual meeting in Chicago. Ray also takes time out to speak to the Chicago Corral and to tape a TV half-hour on Robert Cromie's "Book Beat" show to be aired nationwide this summer on educational television networks. The topic? Who else but Frederick Jackson Turner.

On a recent trip to Great Falls to attend the Fifth Annual Charles M. Russell auction, *Earl Adams* meets our old friend and fellow member *Dwight Vance,* who says he misses all of us and wants to be remembered. Dwight, the Corral misses you, too, and we look forward to the time when you can drop in for the warm welcome that always awaits you.

Finally, C.M. *Abraham Hoffman* is awarded a $10,000 postdoctoral fellowship by the National Endowment for the Humanities. He will be at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1973-1974, doing research in the history and culture of ethnic

minorities in the United States.

After a recitation of accomplishments like these, it is impossible to doubt the energy, the talent, and the creativity of the members of the Los Angeles Corral of The Westerners.



DOWN THE WESTERN BOOK TRAIL ...

FERMÍN FRANCISCO DE LASUÉN (1736-1803). A Biography, by Francis F. Guest, O.F.M., Academy of American Franciscan History, Washington, D.C. 374 pp., 1973. $17.50.

This eagerly-anticipated biography of the man whom Fray Junípero Serra personally groomed as his replacement in the presidency of the California missions, incorporates a considerable amount of previously-unpublished material about the Dominicans in Peninsular California, the grievances of Pedro Fages, the trial of Tomás de la Peña and the introduction of arts and crafts.

Issued by the Academy of American Franciscan History as Volume IX in their Monograph Series, this carefully-prepared treatise rounds out the research pioneered by Finbar Kenneally, O.F.M. and Lazaro Lamadrid Jiménez, O.F.M. on the role played by Fermín Francisco de Lasuén (1736-1803) in the history of California.

During his eighteen years as *Presidente* (1784-1803), Lasuén established nine new missions and greatly enlarged the already-existing foundations. It was he who was mostly responsible for the architectural excellence eventually attained by the California missions.

A Spaniard from the Age of Absolutism, Lasuén's tenure bridged the most dynamic period of missionary development. His administration saw the number of friars doubled and the total count of neophytes increased by threefold. Though considerably more diplomatic in his dealings with the military than Serra, Lasuén's lovable traits as a man contributed appreciably to his success as an administrator.

While bemoaning the fact that "Serra bestrides the little world of Hispanic California like a Colossus, the other Fathers President hidden in the darkness of his shadow," the author advises against "ranking Lasuén over Serra either as a man or as an administrator."

This scholarly-researched, interestingly-written and attractively-presented biographical study, with its drawings by Rayner Harrington, O.F.M., is an altogether worthy treatment of one who, after Fray Junípero Serra, deserves recognition as "Number Two" among the Franciscans in California.

REV. FRANCIS J. WEBER.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PEAKS, by Walt Wheelock. La Siesta Press, Glendale, California. 48 pp., 1973. $1.50.

Are you tired of smog, freeway jams and the noise of modern civilization? Do you want to get up and away from it all where the sun is shining, the sky is blue and stars twinkle at night? If you do – and you enjoy hiking – this book has just what you need to find that spot to cure your troubles.

Southern California's Peaks is the latest paperback from Walt Wheelock's La Siesta Press in the Southern California mountains series. The approaches, trails and paths to 112 peaks are listed and divided into seven areas, from the Los Padres to the San Diegos. Introducing each section is a short description of the ranges with a bit of interesting history included. There is also a general map of each area.

The introduction discusses equipment, types of trails and includes special advice for neophytes. Seldom does a weekend pass without a story in Monday's newspaper telling of lost hikers. Had they followed Walt's instructions, there would have been no trouble.

Each mountain peak is headed by name, elevation, fire closure, need of wilderness permit and the topog sheet to be used. Mileage is given from a posted point.

There is an index, eight photographs, and a page devoted to how and where to obtain a wilderness permit. As to photographs, it is especially interesting, for those who know him, to compare pictures of the author in 1930 and 1973.

You can find solitude. As Walt Wheelock says, "Respect the solitude. Many visitors come in search of quiet and serenity afforded by Wilderness."

WADE KITTELL.

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THE HIGHEST SCHOOL IN CALIFORNIA, by Everett V. O'Rourke. Sacramento Corral of the Westerners, 1972.

Everett O'Rourke, the Recorder of Marks and Brands for the Sacramento Corral, has put together the second publication for this group. It is difficult to make such a small piece of Western Americana interesting, but he has succeeded in doing so.

Many Corral members have visited Bodie (Mono County) with their families on vacation, and have often wondered about the history of the school building which is still standing. This structure is now owned privately by D. V. Cain, having been purchased in 1952 for $300. The rest of the area in Bodie has been a State Historical Park since 1962. Included in the story of the school is a complete listing of the personnel of the Bodie School District and the names of the superintendents of the Mono County schools since the opening of the first school in Bodie in 1877 to its closing in 1943.

— TAD LONERGAN.

ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL HISTORY 1869-1971 . . . A Preliminary Bibliography Compiled by David T. Rocks. Saddleback Book Shop, Box 10393, Santa Ana, Ca. 92711. 18 pp., 1972. $2.00.

Merriam-Webster defines the word *bibliography* as: "the history, identification, or analytical and systematic description or classification of writings or publications considered as material objects." In simple words he means source material to you arm chair historians. The trouble is most so-called historians don't know where to look for material. It is supposed to be on the shelf in the library all set down in order for easy reach. Such is not the case of course, and here, for you Orange County buffs, the compiler has taken all the wind from your sails. It is all laid out from A to Z. All you have to do is be able to read and you got it made.

I thought it might be possible that a publication such as this could be published without the aid of a Westerner or wife of a Westerner — no such luck. Right there in the credits the reader will find Anna Marie Hager, and that caretaker of the Sherman Foundation, William O. Hendricks in bold type.

—DONALD DUKE.

GENERAL CROOK AND THE SIERRA MADRE ADVENTURE. By Dan L. Thrapp. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1972. 196 pp. $7.95.

Dan Thrapp is no stranger to Apache history. His previous books, *Al Sieber, Chief of Scouts* and *The Conquest of Apacheria,* have now lead him to this definitive study of George Crook's extraordinary foray into the formidable terrain of the Sierra Madre Mountains south of the border to quell Apache hostilities and pacify a blood-drenched southwestern border. The end result was the restoration of peace and the eventual return of the hostiles to their respective Arizona reservations. The net results were due to Crook's tactical brilliance as well as his knowledge and insight into Apache customs and thoughts.

Although the Apaches were restless with life on the reservations, the spark that ignited their simmering discontent was the death of their Medicine Man, Noch-ay-del-klinne, who was slain by army troops on Cibecue Creek, is eastern Arizona, August 30, 1881. In an effort to quell the mounting Apache unrest, the army dispatched a small company to bring in the old prophet who was holding dances with the object of raising from the dead Indians who had been killed. The doctrine was being expounded that the dead would rise only when the white people left. This idea, the so-called ghost dances, originated among the Nevada Paiutes about 1870, and reached its climax among the Sioux at Wounded Knee in 1890. As Thrapp points out, "The phenomena had obvious Christian implications." But the death of the medicine man produced a holocaust of violence, theft, and death for southern Arizona and northern Sonora.

Colonel Orlando Willcox marshalled his forces to meet the challenge. As Indians left their reservations, either by choice or under force by compatriots, the army found itself unable to cope with the situation. Reinforcements provided additional manpower, but commandpower was still lacking. Even the experienced Indian fighter, Colonel Ronald Mackenzie could not prevent the Chiricahuas from leaving San Carlos and reaching sanctuary in Old Mexico. The conflagration spread to the New Mexico-Chihuahua border.

The dire circumstances facing the army were compounded by the inability of the

troops to pursue the Apaches across the international boundary. Captain T. C. Tupper's efforts to catch a band led by Loco in northern Chihuahua proved the point. Diplomats had to negotiate an understanding before this problem would be solved.

Southwestern criticism reached such a peak of intensity that finally Washington moved decisively. On September 4, 1882, Crook was appointed commander of the Department of Arizona. Through his adroitness in matters Apache and his superb skill as a soldier and commander, he found the ways and means for achieving a solution. Through concerted action, he cleared the way for an expeditionary force to enter Old Mexico. Boldly, he designed an operational plan that would in effect bring the conflict to the Indians' sanctuary in the Sierra Madre. On May 1, 1883, after careful and elaborate preparation, he pushed south. When he reappeared again at the border on June 10, he brought with him a large contingent of pacified Apaches. A year later all the Indians were back on their reservation. How Crook achieved this is ably recounted by the author in a sprightly and well-documented narrative. It is a fascinating tale.

Thrapp rightly notes that the Sierra Madre adventure was "the climactic event in the Apache wars." True, Geronimo and Chihuahua broke out in 1884, but when they did they took with them only a handful of supporters, not the entire population of the several reservations.

The book is well-illustrated with surviving photographs. Various tribal and army movements are made readily understandable by a series of well-drawn maps. An end pocket contains two unique maps of the Crook expedition's Sierra Madre penetration.

There will be the inevitable comparison of Thrapp's book with that written by John G. Bourke, *An Apache Campaign in the Sierra Madre,* published in New York in 1886. In his capacity as chief aide to Crook, Bourke was an active participant in the campaign. It is a western classic. Granted. Thrapp, however, holds his own. His setting is broader; his research is flawless; his objectivity is sounder. Being no armchair historian, he has personally reconnoitered the geographic scene. Simply put, his is the better history. It will remain so.

— Doyce B. Nunis, Jr.

Beaches of Sonora, by Walt Wheelock. La Siesta Press, Glendale, California, 1972. 72 pp., maps, photographs, index. $1.95.

Twenty-seven titles, maybe more, have been issued by the La Siesta Press since 1960. They have covered many subjects: mountain climbing, the High Sierra, Baja California, outdoor lore, etc. From a simple beginning they have shown an ever-increasing quality in pictures, printing and format until the latest publication, *Beaches of Sonora* by Westerner Walt Wheelock, which is everything desirable in an accurate, concise, informative, illustrative, and well printed guide to the coastal beaches of the little known state of Sonora, Mexico. Walt is no arm-chair explorer but has visited the places he writes about. Some of the beaches can be reached over good roads, but others require bucking wheel tracks through a wilderness. All can be reached in an ordinary motor car "if you know how to drive like a Mexican." *Beaches of Sonora* is a fine commentary on opening an un-opened part of northwest Mexico.

— Don Meadows.

Desert Editor: The Story of Randall Henderson and Palm Desert, by J. Wilson McKenney. Wilmac Press, Georgetown, Ca. 95634. 188 pp., illustrations, maps, portraits on inside of dust jacket, bibliography, no index. 1972. $7.95.

Randall Henderson, known to many thousands of his readers as "Mr. Desert," acquired this well deserved reputation by the simple process of editing *Desert* magazine from 1937 until his death in 1970. During this twenty-year period he came to be very familiar with the changing faces of the desert, particularly that part of it that lies east of the Whitewater Pass between Mt. San Jacinto and San Gorgonio Peak, and through his writings in his magazine he made thousands of other people in the Southwest almost as enthusiastic about life in the California deserts as he himself was. This was his major contribution to California life and culture. Incidentally, he was responsible for the founding of the community of Palm Desert, today a city of some 5,000 people, but which consisted of little more than vacant acreage in 1947-48. When a post office was opened, the print shop and offices of *Desert* magazine were moved from El Cen-

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tro, and a community began to develop around these two enterprises.

The author of this unusual biography, J. Wilson McKenney, formerly editor of the California Teachers Association organ, the *CTA Journal,* was closely associated with Henderson for many years. The two of them were partners in publishing newspapers in two of the towns in the Imperial Valley, Calexico and Calipatria. Their mutual interest in journalism and their still greater enthusiasm for the desert enabled them to spend many weekends camping out together on the desert they both loved or climbing the heights of the many mountains that surround it. In June of 1936, after barely managing to bring their newspapers through the Depression, Henderson and McKenney – making their decision in the heady atmosphere of the 8,000-feet elevations in the Santa Rosa Mountains – resolved to sell their newspapers, to abandon their careers as newsgatherers, and to embark on the precarious and generally unprofitable venture of a regional magazine, theirs to be called, simply, *Desert.*

Now, in 1972, Wilson McKenney has published his recollections of these early years of *Desert* magazine, recounting the many events that led to the 1948 move from El Centro to an unnamed cove at the foot of the Santa Rosa Mountains, and to the founding of Palm Desert.

But the book is more than a life of Randall Henderson. Essentially it is the story of Palm Desert, the town that Henderson brought to life. The first three chapters recount the prehistory ("This was Cahuilla Land") and the history ("Then Came the Explorers") of the western extension of what we now call the Coachella Valley, while other chapters of the book narrate in some detail the development of the region from a parched desert to a flourishing community ("Water for a Thirsty Land" and "The Cove Becomes a Community"). Another chapter is devoted to an account of the wild palms that grow in many separate groves or oases throughout the lower regions of the mountains. Henderson explored all the canyons in the area, counted and cataloged all the wild palms he found in them (some 87 groups in all), studied their habitats and their means of survival, and in his notes and log books, which McKenney uses freely, described in detail the locations of some of the more inaccessible oases. His work in this field finally led to the establishment of the Desert Protective Council, one of whose activities is the promotion of legislation that will protect these beautiful fan palms, the *Washingtonia filifera.*

The accomplishments of Randall Henderson form, naturally, the dominant theme of this book, and much of the vividness of the account is achieved by extensive quotations from Henderson's own notes and diaries. For example, "Our first climbing problem was a waterfall with a sheer drop we estimated at 75 feet." Or, "In the short distance before I reached the floor of the cove, I found only one small *Washingtonia.* I entered it in my log book as 'One Palm Canyon'." With such quotations and with frequent paraphrase of Henderson's voluminous notes, McKenney tells the life story of his friend with adequate detail and with sure and sensitive touch.

The book is not without some minor imperfections. California history buffs will argue that Fr. Garcés did not really "discover" the San Joaquin Valley, since (as Bolton pointed out in 1931) it is known that Fages preceded him there by about four years; and Fr. Serra did not "laboriously extend the chain [of missions] northward to Sonoma." His successors did that. He himself died in 1784; the mission at Sonoma wasn't founded until 1823. And there are a couple of typos that always plague the serious historian – General Kearny's name is spelled Kearney, and the word *jornada* is twice spelled as *jornado.*

But these are minor points. A more serious omission is the lack of an index, which would have made the book more useful as a work of reference. Despite these minor defects, and despite the author's occasional tendency to use clichés of journalism – "prized possessions," "forbidding wasteland," "fledgling community," skyrocketing costs," and the like – *Desert Editor* is an outstanding contribution to our knowledge, not only of a man who was filled with enthusiasm for desert life, but also of the community he helped to found and of the people who came to live there. It is a book for all of those people who, like Randall Henderson, have come to know and love the desert, no matter where in Southern California, or anywhere else for that matter, they actually make their home.

– RAYMUND F. WOOD.